

METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR LAUNCHING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT,  
INCLUDING METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR RELEASABLY GRIPPING  
AIRCRAFT DURING LAUNCH

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatuses for launching unmanned aircraft and other flight devices or projectiles are described. In one embodiment, the aircraft can be launched from an apparatus that includes a launch carriage that moves along a launch axis. A gripper carried by the launch carriage can have at least one grip portion in contact with the aircraft while the launch carriage accelerates along the launch axis. The at least one grip portion can move out of contact with the fuselage of the aircraft as the launch carriage decelerates, releasing the aircraft for takeoff.